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I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of this conference. It is the first ISCA Conference in Boise I have been able to attend and I took away a lot of information that I plan on using in my school. I am sorry this paper is so long but the conference made an important impression on my professional career and I appreciate that it was funded.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Sroka opened the conference with his presentation "Superman is not here but the power of one is here - you." He reminded us that the most important thing that we bring to our students is our passion. He stressed that the relationships we build with our students is what can make us successful and allow us to make a difference in their lives.

Dr. Sroka compared our jobs with that of the legs of a chair. In order to be most successful, we need to interact with the 1) Student 2) Family 3) Community 4) School. If one of those entities is missing, just like a chair with one leg missing, stability will not be present and the chair will not stand. It reminded me that I cannot just work alone with my students (clients), that I need to bring in the valuable people in the child's life, the influences that can make a positive difference and help the child make the needed changes in their lives to be successful. Once again, the idea of relationships.

Words can hurt forever, words can kill, and words can give life. Dr. Sroka reminded us that you cannot un - say a cruel word. He went on to say that little words and little deeds save lives. Sometimes it only takes one positive person with a positive word to give a child hope. A visual demonstration he preformed that I will modify and use in future presentations was about a \$50 bill. He told us that a \$50 bill has value, crumple it up and it still has value. If we throw it on the ground, it still has value. It is important to remember that even when we (our clients) feel crumpled with the problems in their lives, even when they feel down, they still have value.

Several quick quotes he made left an impression with me. "Those of you who are judgmental.....have not been humbled", "Hurt people, hurt people", "Some people lash out, some lash in" (cutters), "Much better to educate than rehabilitate", "What you permit, you promote", "People respond to people, not programs", "You got a problem, you got choices", "If you know someone who is normal, you don't know them very well", "No rain, no rainbow".

One of the interesting seminars I went to that will be really helpful discussed the role school counselors play in the RTI process. The presenter (Brian Law) discussed with us how we can develop a diagram similar to the RTI pyramid listing our interventions based on level one, two, or three. Brian told us that a key phrase we need to remember is "I affect school achievement". We are to believe this and define ourselves in this manner. Brian suggested that we keep more data than just the number of students we see each week.

Jennie Withers and Phyllis Hendrickson had a few good points that they presented during their address to the attendees. They made a comment in their presentation that "victims are people pleasers by nature". Even now as I reflect on the statement, it makes a lot of sense and I can see this in the students I have worked with. These presenters gave us a list of what not to do and the ideas seemed common sense but important except one that I disagreed with. It was mentioned that we should not have posters in the halls on bullying or brochures in the counselor's office. I would disagree with this idea because I feel for some students that poster can be the reminder and the motivation to seek help. The same with the pamphlets which I feel are an easy tool for a child to take and think about, maybe leading them to seeking help.

My attendance at Jessica Berry's presentation on The School Counselor's Response to Death Within the School Community was very informative. Although she reinforced what I already knew, she added some new ideas that I can use with the children I work with. I plan on adding music and memory boxes to my strategies in dealing with a death. Jessica also listed some common myths about loss and grief that I feel we sometimes forget but are important for us to remember and teach to other staff members in the school.

I have also started a project idea that I gathered from the conference. One of the discussions talked about elementary counselors promoting college attendance and doing activities pertaining to college. I have contacted the state colleges in Idaho and have asked for materials from their schools that I can use for a bulletin board promoting college attendance in Idaho. So far one of the schools has responded and I hope to develop the board in January. I want to continue to promote college attendance to the students in my building as we have a large low income population and the topic is not generally discussed in the homes. Many of these children have no exposure to the benefits of higher education. I hope to eventually have a revolving set of bulletin boards I can display for the entire school year.

I think the foremost trend for the future will be gathering documentation that demonstrates the counseling professional within the school not only helps the child emotionally but also benefits the academic realm for that student. I see the counselor delving into more "crisis" type of situations because they have built relationships with students over the years and are trusted by the students. The counselor must continue to get more education both in counseling and documentation procedures as these are the things districts will look at when reviewing counselor performance. As always the counselor's best tool is their ability to build relationships. Through these relationships a school counselor can continue to meet the needs of their students in a trusting relationship built on past connections. Counselors will continue to touch every aspect of a student's life, academic and personal and they will need to update their record keeping and clinical skills to meet the future demands of their students.